A SNAPSHOT OF THE

GEORGIA HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE PILOT PROGRAM

⊙ Overview

In 2006, the Health Information Technology and Transparency (HITT) Advisory Board and the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) launched the Georgia Health Information Exchange (HIE) Pilot Program, which awards matching grants to foster the development of HIE, electronic prescribing and the adoption of electronic health records (EHR) across the state.

⊙ Year One Grants

In November 2007, DCH awarded $853,088 in matching grants to four health care organizations that demonstrated the ability through their proposals to improve both health care services and public health.

The Georgia HIE grantees aimed to improve access to comprehensive patient health information created by multiple providers and to decrease prescription errors linked to illegible handwriting or insufficient information. The awardees matched the funds given to them by the state.

⊙ Year Two Awards

HITT launched a second round of HIE grant awards, and in November 2008 awards were made totaling $750,000 to three organizations. (See chart at right).

Two of the grantees who received awards both years, Chatham and Washington Counties, will expand on their first-year projects by implementing EHRs and sharing information among hospitals, public health clinics and primary health care physicians in their geographic areas.

Best practices, accomplishments and lessons learned from the pilot programs will be used to further the strategic efforts of Georgia for statewide HIE.

GRANTEE	AWARD	GRANT PROJECT
Chatham County Safety Net Planning Council Inc.	$202,000	Implementation of an electronic medical record and e-prescribing solution
St. Joseph of East Georgia	$250,000	Implementation of an electronic medical record and e-prescribing solution
Washington County Regional Medical	$250,000	Implementation of an electronic medical record and e-prescribing solution

DCH recently produced a final report of the accomplishments and lessons learned from the first year HIE Program, *Georgia Health Information Exchange Pilot Program* in July 2009. It can be found on the DCH web site at **dch.ga.gov**.

⊙ Grant Award with the Georgia Association of Primary Health Care (GAPHC)

DCH awarded a new grant of $500,000.00 to the Georgia Association of Primary Health Care (GAPHC) to continue their work with Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) in Georgia. The goals of the grant are to increase the adoption and utilization of EHRs among the FQHCs and to implement an HIE among this group of providers.

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